

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 23, 2009. Claims 1 to 3, 7 to 13, 15 and 17 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1 and 7 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 3, 7, 8 and 10 to 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,373,588 (Fischer) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,267,517 (Noda). Claims 15 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Fischer in view of Noda, and in further view of well known art (official notice).

The present invention concerns creating a single print job for a banner by combining a plurality of print jobs. To do so, an apparatus in accordance with the present invention generates a print job by combining first and second print jobs in which first and second page data and first and second banner print data for printing first and second banner information are included, and generates new banner print data for printing new banner information different from the first and second banner information..

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a method of sending a print job to a printing apparatus in an information processing apparatus. The method includes a first generation step of generating a combined print job by combining a first print job and a second print job, the first print job including first page data and first banner print data for printing first banner information, the second print job including second page data different from the first page data and second banner print data for printing second banner information different from the first banner information; a second generation step of generating new banner print data for printing new

banner information different from the first banner information and the second banner information, for the combined print job generated in the first generation step; and a sending step of sending the new banner print data generated in the second generation step, the first page data and the second page data to the printing apparatus, as the combined print job, such that the new banner print information without printing the first banner information and the second banner information is printed on a sheet.

Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references, namely Fischer and Noda, whether considered alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the features of the method of Claim 1. In particular, the cited references, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least the features of generating a combined print job by combining a first print job and a second print job, the first print job including first page data and first banner print data for printing first banner information, the second print job including second page data different from the first page data and second banner print data for printing second banner information different from the first banner information, generating new banner print data for printing new banner information different from the first banner information and the second banner information for the combined print job, and sending the new banner print data generated in the second generation step, the first page data and the second page data to the printing apparatus, as the combined print job, such that the new banner print information, without printing the first banner information and the second banner information, is printed on a sheet.

In contrast to the present invention, Fischer merely discloses that if a print job is a multiple original copy print job (or a conventional multiple copy job), a banner page is printed only once. Specifically, Fischer states “in the event a multiple original copy

(MOPY) print job is detected 325 (or if a conventional multiple copy job is detected) in the print job data stream, then the output quantity of the banner page is limited to a single output 330. Specifically, for example, if a MOPY job is detected in the data stream to produce multiple original prints (sets), then rather than printing the banner page with each set, the present invention modifies the print job data stream 330 to print the banner page only once if all the sets are to be ultimately sent to a single output tray 35. Alternatively, if a banner page is not desired at all, then the stream is modified 330 such that no banner page is printed.” (See Fischer, Column 10, Lines 14 to 26).

Furthermore, Noda merely discloses that if a print job of the same user is received and a designated time is passed from previous print job, a banner page is printed. In particular, Noda discloses that “(i)n case that the present and previous users are the same (Yes at the step S102), when a time passed from the previous print job is longer than a designated time (Yes at step S103), it is assumed that printed documents of the previous print job is collected by the user, and a banner page is made at the banner page controller 213 and printed (the step S106).” (See Noda, Column 5, Lines 22 to 27.)

Therefore, in Fischer and Noda, there is no mention of the feature of the present invention, which generates a print job by combining first and second print jobs in which first and second page data and first and second banner print data for printing first and second banner information are included, and generates new banner print data for printing new banner information different from the first and second banner information.

In light of these deficiencies in Fischer and Noda as discussed above, Applicant submits that amended independent Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Amended independent Claim 7 is directed to an apparatus substantially in accordance with the method of Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 7 is also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each dependent claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

CONCLUSION

No claim fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional claim fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 06-1205.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

/Frank Cire #42,419/
Frank L. Cire
Attorney for Applicant

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

FCHS_WS 3553136v1